

WHEN TURNING ON THE LIGHT, WE TRY TO CREATE A NATURAL DAYLIGHT INSIDE. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS MIMIC. IT DOESN'T FEEL NATURAL; THE LIGHT ALWAYS LOOKS THE SAME, WHILE DAYLIGHT IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING.

In this project I want to overcome this odd mimic, and create a luminaire that gives dynamic light and feels natural.

Natural light is a dynamic light. It always changes due to variations of time, weather, seasons, etc. This creates a light that is never the same; it can change in color, brightness, sharpness and gives shadows that move in different ways and speeds. Most people prefer a dynamic light over a static light, because it feels more natural. Some types of dynamic light are uncommon for some people, like the northern lights, and might not recognize it as a natural light. Also, lightning is very scary for others. This needed to be considered while choosing a dynamic light that is recognizable and feels comfortable for most people.

There is one particular light very appealing for most people; the light/shadow pattern that shows under trees when the sun shines. This light pattern is something that occurs on many places on this planet, and during different seasons. Regardless of the species of the tree, the shadow plays often look similar. The combination of direct sun spots and shadows makes is very appealing for most people to hang out in one of these shadow plays. It has a soft look, and moves at a very calm pace.

A criteria from my brief is that the light should give natural light and feel natural. I think that it is very important that this fits the form language. For me this also means that I can experiment a bit more with the styling of the light; how can and should it look like? I wanted to find an area that fits these goals:

its experimental character needs to be accepted by the user group.

I got focused on the so called 'food cafés': these are small and upcoming restaurants/ coffee bars/ hangout spots where people can eat and drink something. The interior for these food cafés is very important for giving it the right atmosphere and experience. The food they serve is usually homemade and 'healthy'. It also happens that people go and work there with their laptop (latte and laptops), since the atmosphere is quite calm and casual.

I'd like to call these places the 'urban picnic', since they strongly give the feeling of a relaxed picnic in the city.

The result is Shadowplay, a dynamic light for urban picnics. It is inspired by natural light, on the calm and relaxing shadow patterns which appear under trees when the sun is shining.

The light comes out at the bottom of the lamp, shining through the two layers of trees. The top tree moves at a natural poetic pass, creating a playful pattern on the floor. Being around Shadowplay feels exactly like sitting under a tree. The light changes constantly with a flickering soft movement.

